

REMARKS:

I. General

Claims 1-6, 8-16 and 18 - 22 are pending in the application. The issues in the Office Action mailed April 18, 2007 are as follows:

- Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-16, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Besel.
- Claims 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Besel in view of Marcussen et al.
- Claims 14, 21, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Besel in view of Miner et al.

Applicant hereby traverses the outstanding rejections and objections and requests reconsideration and withdrawal in light of the remarks and amendments contained herein.

II. Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-16, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Besel.

Claims 1-2 are directed to a method wherein a given portion of the cleaning medium is wetted, revolved into contact with a vacuum extractor, vacuum extracted using the extractor, revolved away from contact with the vacuum extractor toward the surface to be cleaned, and only then wiped against the surface to be cleaned. The device of Besel is incapable of performing such a method as the vacuum extraction occurs in Besel only after wiping the wetted portion against the surface to be cleaned.

Claims 3-4 are directed to a method including revolving a previously wetted portion of the cleaning medium toward a vacuum extractor, said extractor having an elongated slot

opening in contact with the cleaning medium, and said slot opening extending substantially across said previously wetted portion of the cleaning medium and revolving said previously wetted portion of the cleaning medium away from contact with the slot opening and toward contact with the surface intended to be cleaned. The device of Besel is incapable of performing such a method as the vacuum extraction occurs in Besel only after wiping the wetted portion against the surface to be cleaned. Additionally, Besel does not disclose a vacuum extractor having a slot opening in contact with the cleaning medium.

Claims 5-14 are directed to methods wherein a given portion of the cleaning medium is wetted, revolved into contact with a slot opening of a vacuum extractor, vacuum extracted using the extractor, revolved out of contact with the extractor, and only then wiped against the surface to be cleaned. The device of Besel is incapable of performing such a method as the vacuum extraction occurs in Besel only after wiping the wetted portion against the surface to be cleaned. Additionally, Besel does not disclose a vacuum extractor having a slot opening in contact with the cleaning medium.

Claims 15-16, 20 are directed to a method wherein a given portion of the cleaning medium is wetted, revolved into contact with a slot opening of a vacuum extractor, vacuum extracted through the slot opening of the extractor, and only then wiped against the surface to be cleaned. The device of Besel is incapable of performing such a method as the vacuum extraction occurs in Besel only after wiping the wetted portion against the surface to be cleaned. Additionally Besel does not disclose an extractor having a slot opening in contact with the cleaning medium prior to contact with the floor surface.

As Besel et al. does not teach or suggest the limitations of claims 1, 3, 5, 15 and 22, reconsideration of the rejection under 102(b) is requested.

- III. Claims 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Besel in view of Marcussen et al.

It is submitted that the combination of Besel and Marcussen et al, even if proper, would fail to yield all limitations of the present invention. In particular, neither Besel nor Marcussen et al. teaches or suggests the steps of spraying a portion of a revolving cleaning medium, then removing some soil and some of the cleaning liquid from the wetted portion of the cleaning medium through a slot opening of a vacuum extractor, and then wiping the carpeted surface with the portion of the cleaning medium. Neither Besel nor Marcussen et al. teaches or suggests spraying cleaning liquid on a portion of a revolving cleaning medium and then removing some soil and some cleaning liquid from the portion of the cleaning medium via a slot opening of a vacuum extractor prior to wiping the portion on a carpeted surface.

- IV. Claims 14, 21, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Besel in view of Miner et al.

It is submitted that the combination of Besel and Miner et al, even if proper, would fail to yield all limitations of the present invention.

Regarding claim 14, neither Besel nor Miner et al. teaches or suggests spraying a portion of a revolving cleaning medium, then removing some soil and some of the cleaning liquid from the wetted portion of the cleaning medium through a slot opening of a vacuum extractor, and then wiping the carpeted surface with the portion of the cleaning medium.

Regarding claims 21 and 22, Neither Besel nor Miner et al. teaches or suggests spraying cleaning liquid on a portion of a revolving cleaning medium and then removing some soil and some cleaning liquid from the portion of the cleaning medium prior to wiping the portion on a carpeted surface, with said removing using a vacuum extractor having a slot opening in contact with the previously wetted portion of the cleaning medium, and said slot opening having a slot width which is substantially smaller than a diameter of a vacuum conduit coupled to said extractor.

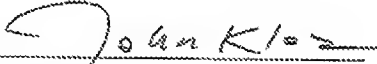
Claim 22 is directed to a method wherein a given portion of the cleaning medium is wetted, revolved into contact with a slot opening of a vacuum extractor, vacuum extracted using the extractor, revolved out of contact with the extractor, and only then wiped against the surface to be cleaned. The slot opening has a slot width which is substantially smaller than a diameter of a vacuum conduit coupled to said extractor. The device of Besel is incapable of performing such a method as the vacuum extraction occurs in Besel only after wiping the wetted portion against the surface to be cleaned. Further Besel does not disclose or suggest a slot opening having a slot width which is smaller than a diameter of a vacuum conduit attached to the extractor. For example, in Figure 8a, vacuum device 36 does not define such a slot opening.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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